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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/775,628	02/05/2001	Roland Mayer	P20358	8314

7055 7590 07/16/2002

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EXAMINER

HALPERN, MARK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1731	8

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/775,628	MAYER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mark Halpern	1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 June 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4&6. 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1) Applicant's election with traverse of invention I, drawn on claims 1-20, in Paper No. 7, is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the search is co-extensive. This is not found persuasive because the search is not co-extensive.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 21-31, are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2) Claims 1-20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vallius (5,690,791).

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-20: Vallius discloses an apparatus that includes a transfer belt 17A used for transferring web W from a press section to a dryer section. Traveling on fabric 53 the web W enters an extended nip NP, formed between rolls 20 and 21, and then the web is separated from pick-up fabric 53 and is transferred onto smooth

face 21' of press roll 21 to an equalizing nip zone NT (nip NT is formed between press rolls 21 and 31). The web is then transferred onto belt loop 17A, on which run it is possible to compensate for elongation of the web W taking place in the equalizing nip NT in the machine direction and to keep the web W approximately tight. The transfer belt 17A is guided by guide rolls 56 and press roll 31, all located inside the transfer belt loop 17A. The web is then transferred over guide roll 56 to the transfer zone TS where the web W is transferred onto the smooth face 40' of the drying cylinder 40 (col. 6, lines 30-40, col. 7, lines 20-51, and Figure 4). The transfer belt 17A of Vallius is an elastic belt of smooth surface with some degree of permeability (col. 8, lines 1-8). The guide rolls 56 are suction rolls (col. 7, lines 20-25). The dryer section roll 41 is a suction cylinder (col. 7, lines 51-67).

Note: the present claims are apparatus claims. Apparatus claims must be structurally distinguishable from the prior art. Manner of operating the device does not differentiate apparatus claims from the prior art. MPEP 2114. Also, in apparatus claims, when the structure recited in the reference is substantially identical to that of the claims, claimed properties or functions are presumed to be inherent. MPEP 2112.01. In the present invention, the speed of operation of the transfer belt, recited in claims 1, 7-8, is not of consideration.

Claim 3: the web is a paper web (Abstract).

Claim 11: there is no open draw as show in Figure 4.

Conclusion

3) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone number is 703-305-4522. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703-308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7718 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

MH

Mark Halpern

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 1731

July 8, 2002



PETER CHIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER